

Trumbull Police Department Police Commission Meeting
Trumbull Police Headquarters – Chief's Conference Room
Wednesday, November 12, 2008

The Trumbull Police Department Police Commission Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence..

Members Present: Dave Wilson, Commission Chairman
 Mary Moran, Commission Vice Chairman
 Sandy Galla, Commission Secretary
 Anna Henry, Commissioner

Also Present: Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes
 Deputy Chief Michael Harry
 Officer Robert Coppola
 Brian Casey
 Cathy Kohut (K9 Search & Rescue Services)
 Christine Clark (K9 Search & Rescue Services)
 Deborah Monde (K9 Search & Rescue Services)

Not Present: Chief Thomas Kiely
 Commissioner Lino Costantini
 Commissioner William Murphy

MOTION MADE (Commissioner GALLA) 2nd (Commissioner HENRY) to ACCEPT the minutes of the October 14, 2008 Police Commission Meeting Minutes. FOR – Commission Chairman WILSON, Commissioners GALLA & HENRY. One Abstention – Commissioner MORAN. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment

Cathy Kohut of K9 Search & Rescue Services gave an overview of the services provided by the volunteer K9 Search & Services program. This program is designed to provide professionally trained search and rescue teams to towns in need of resources as an additional tool for the location and recovery of lost or missing persons.

These teams are professionally trained in search and rescue management and search processes. They are certified in Wilderness, Land Cadaver, Water Recovery, Crime Scene Preservation, Radio Communication and Critical Incident Stress management and are available 24/7 through emergency dispatch.

This service enables the responsible agency (Police Department/Fire Department) to continue to focus on its primary area of responsibility as it is complimentary to Law Enforcement K9 training.

On September 11, 2001, much of the search and rescue was provided by volunteers utilizing the K9 search and rescue services, performed by people like Ms. Kohut and her colleagues Deborah Monde and Christine Clark.

The possibility of a demonstration to the Commissioners was briefly discussed.

The Commissioners were given literature outlining the program and a resume' of Ms.Kohut's Individual Handler SAR Qualifications.

The Commissioners were in agreement to review this information and discuss their individual findings at a future Police Commission meeting.

Chief Kiely's Report – In the absence of Chief Kiely, Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes & Deputy Chief Michael Harry presented the Chief's report.

The proposed Alarm Ordinance is put on hold until such time we are comfortable with being able to support this new program entirely. Launching it at this time would be premature as the Connecticut Chiefs of Police have come out with a standard to which we want to run parallel to meeting these standards.

Due to the technology fund being eliminated, concerns were raised regarding the urgent need for funding for technology support, equipment and licensing.

Deputy Chief Harry indicated that personnel wise, it would have an impact on the Department as there has been a hiring freeze which will affect the availability of personnel to help the Department enhance this program. The hiring of two additional officers has been put on hold due to budget restraints.

The program, at this time, is entirely in the hands of Brian Casey along with the recent management upgrade of the Records Division and keeping technology running in our fleet vehicles. The management/maintenance of our current technology, i.e. repairs/replacements, due to the lack of funding is extremely time consuming.

The proposed Alarm Ordinance must be carefully approached before proceeding.

Due to the budget cuts, the physical plant and fleet will also suffer, and, eventually a large scale purchase will have to be made which will create a large addition to the capital account. Budget issues were addressed with regard to the recent approval of the Trumbull Police Union's agreement with the Town of Trumbull. A copy of this contract will be sent to the Police Commissioners for their perusal.

Involved in the current budget process for next year, and concentrating on getting past this year is very time consuming. With this in mind, Chief Kiely has resigned his position on the CEDC board. In his stead, Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes, along with Brian Casey, will represent the Police side of the project.

Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the Board of Police Commissioners of the proposed Regional Dispatch Center's status. Chief John Salvatore, Monroe Police Chief, and Chief Jack Solomon, Easton Police Chief, discussed with Chief Kiely pursuing state funding for a regional dispatch center. At this time, Captain Michael Flick, Monroe Police Department, agreed to research the project. His findings were that funds have been approved by the State of Connecticut to conduct a feasibility study. Said study should begin soon.

On October 14, 2008, Lieutenant Scott Sikora, Sergeant Phil Hynes, Officers Michael Redgate, Jay Leos, Scott Duva, Dave Skoog, Ray Hahn & Joe Velky, assisted Newtown Police with a search for evidence in Lake Zoar relating to a specific case. Due to their diligence and professionalism, items pertaining to other earlier cases within the Newtown Police Department were recovered.

Chief Michael Kehoe extended his thanks in a letter to this Department in appreciation for our assistance. Once again, this demonstrates the commitment to assisting and cooperating with neighboring agencies.

On October 02, 2008. Gary Pfeifer, Compliance Officer. Certification Division of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, Connecticut Police Academy, visited the Trumbull Police Department's Training Office on behalf of the Police Officer Standard and Training Council for the purpose of conducting an audit of our entry standards for officers hired within the last two years and recertification records for 2006, 2007. and 2008.

All records pertaining to their audit were found to be in order, exceeding the Council requirements for all areas of review training during the aforementioned periods.

The training records were found to be well organized in an orderly fashion. The documents were all signed, as required, and meticulously maintained.

The Milford Academy submitted a second progress report for recruit Blake Petty. Due to Officer Petty's determination and dedication to succeed in his career, he once again is to be congratulated on his excellent academic performance and completing the course ranking first in

the class of 29 recruits. Officer Petty has maintained his standing of number one in the class, as he was first in his class in the first progress report.

Traffic Report

In the Traffic Report prepared by Lieutenant Golding, it indicates that the majority of the complaints are residents concerns for speeding.

In Commissioner Moran's observations, she indicated that the speeding in town has become a serious problem. Presently, speeding complaints are addressed through the placement of the Speed Trailer which visibly informs the motor vehicle operator of their current speed. This equipment stores the data in a computer which records the number of vehicles and the speed limits at the particular location. However, it does not have the capability of printing out this information.

It was recommended that complainants be contacted by Lieutenant Golding informing them that this Department is aware of their complaint. Upon follow-up by our Traffic Unit of the complaint, their findings will be forwarded Lieutenant Golding, who in turn will contact the complainant and inform them of the findings and proposed resolution..

Lieutenant Golding issues the Traffic Complaint list to the Traffic and Patrol Divisions for patrol monitoring/enforcement.

In an agreement with the State DOT, Town Highway, and the Trumbull PD, Whitney Ave will have "SLOW" with a bicycle symbol painted onto the roadway in both directions near the Rails to Trails crossing for additional warnings to motorists.

The 2009 Expanded DUI Grant has been approved and officers are currently being assigned to it on a weekly basis.

"Click it or Ticket" seatbelt campaign starts on November 17th, 2008 and runs until November 30th, 2008.

"No Parking" signs have been installed on Route 111 between Gisella Rd and Whitney Ave.

Old/New Business: None

MOTION MADE (Commissioner MORAN) 2nd (Commissioner HENRY) to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 6:50PM. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted:

Jo-Ann C. Nanni
Clerk of the Commission